

K. R. (KEN) WELCH
Assistant Vice President
Environmental Management

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY



Mailing Address:
Room 930
1416 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68179
Fax No. (402) 271-4461

HZI RC/TE
TXDQXX820266
G. (GLENN) THOMAS
Director-Environmental Operations South
S. W. (STEVE) BERKI
Director-Environmental Operations-Central
L. A. (LANNY) SCHMID
Director-Environmental Operations-West
B. A. (BROCK) NELSON
Director-Environmental Operations-North
R. L. (RICK) EADES
Director-Environmental Site Remediation

January 10, 1999

Dr. Ata-ur-Rhaman
Manager, Corrective Action Section
Remediation Division (MC-127)
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Subject: Transmittal, United States Environmental Protection Agency RCRA Cleanup Reforms
Initiative Goals of the Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 Forms;
Houston Wood Preserving Works Site; Houston, Texas

Dear Dr. Rahman:

Enclosed are the completed GPRA forms for the referenced site. If you have any questions regarding these forms, please call me at (402) 271-5979.

Sincerely,

Union Pacific Railroad

E. H. (Ed) Honig, P.E.
Manager, Environmental Site Remediation

EHH/BT464422-A00
Enclosure

cc: Mark Arthur, TNRCC-Austin
Marsha Hill, TNRCC Region 12-Houston
Allyn Davis, EPA Region 6-Dallas
Thomas Pacioni, Environmental Resources Management

01 JAN 21 1999
EPA REGION 6
OPERATIONS DIV.

DOCUMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR DETERMINATION

Interim Final 2/5/99

RCRA Corrective Action Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRIS Code (CA725)

Current Human Exposures Under Control

Facility Name: Houston Wood Preserving Works
Facility Address: 9910 Liberty Road
Facility EPA ID #: TXD0008202669

1. Has all available relevant/significant information on known and reasonably suspected releases to soil, ground-water, surface water/sediments, and air, subject to RCRA Corrective Action (e.g., from Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU), Regulated Units (RU), and Areas of Concern (AOC)), been **considered** in this EI determination?

 If yes - check here and continue with #2 below.

 If no - re-evaluate existing data, or

 X If data are not available skip to #6 and enter "IN" (more information needed) status code.

BACKGROUND

Definition of Environmental Indicators (for the RCRA Corrective Action)

Environmental Indicators (EI) are measures being used by the RCRA Corrective Action program to go beyond programmatic activity measures (e.g., reports received and approved, etc.) to track changes in the quality of the environment. The two EI developed to-date indicate the quality of the environment in relation to current human exposures to contamination and the migration of contaminated groundwater. An EI for non-human (ecological) receptors is intended to be developed in the future.

Definition of "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI

A positive "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI determination ("YE" status code) indicates that there are no "unacceptable" human exposures to "contamination" (i.e., contaminants in concentrations in excess of appropriate risk-based levels) that can be reasonably expected under current land- and groundwater-use conditions (for all "contamination" subject to RCRA corrective action at or from the identified facility (i.e., site-wide)).

Relationship of EI to Final Remedies

While Final remedies remain the long-term objective of the RCRA Corrective Action program the EI are near-term objectives which are currently being used as Program measures for the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, GPRA). The "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI are for reasonably expected human exposures under current land- and groundwater-use conditions ONLY, and do not consider potential future land-or groundwater-use conditions or ecological receptors. The RCRA Corrective Action program's overall mission to protect human health and the environment requires that Final remedies address these issues (i.e., potential future human exposure scenarios, future land and groundwater uses, and ecological receptors).

Duration / Applicability of EI Determinations

EI Determinations status codes should remain in RCRIS national database ONLY as long as they remain true (i.e., RCRIS status codes must be changed when the regulatory authorities become aware of contrary information).

Current Human Exposures Under Control
Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRIS code (CA725)
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2. Are groundwater, soil, surface water, sediments, or air **media** known or reasonably suspected to be **"contaminated"**¹ above appropriately protective risk-based "levels" (applicable promulgated standards, as well as other appropriate standards, guidelines, guidance, or criteria) from releases subject to RCRA Corrective Action (from SWMUs, RUs or AOCs)?

	Yes	No	?	Rationale/Key Contaminants
Groundwater				
Air (indoors) ²				
Surface Soil (e.g., < 2 ft)				
Surface Water				
Sediment				
Subsurf. Soil (e.g., > 2 ft)				
Air (outdoors)				

_____ If no (for all media) - skip to #6, and enter "YE." status code after providing or citing appropriate "levels," and referencing sufficient supporting documentation demonstrating that these "levels" are not exceeded.

_____ If yes (for any media) - continue after identifying key contaminants in each "contaminated" medium, citing appropriate "levels" (or provide an explanation for the determination that the medium could pose an unacceptable risk), and referencing supporting documentation.

_____ If unknown (for any media) - skip to #6 and enter "IN" status code.

Rationale and Reference(s): Not Applicable

Footnotes:

¹ "Contamination" and "contaminated" describes media containing contaminants (in any form, NAPL and/or dissolved, vapors, or solids, that are subject to RCRA) in concentrations in excess of appropriately protective risk-based "levels" (for the media, that identify risks within the acceptable risk range).

² Recent evidence (from the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, and others) suggest that unacceptable indoor air concentrations are more common in structures above groundwater with volatile contaminants than previously believed. This is a rapidly developing field and reviewers are encouraged to look to the latest guidance for the appropriate methods and scale of demonstration necessary to be reasonably certain that indoor air (in structures located above (and adjacent to) groundwater with volatile contaminants) does not present unacceptable risks.

Current Human Exposures Under Control

Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRIS code (CA725)

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3. Are there **complete pathways** between "contamination" and human receptors such that exposures can be reasonably expected under the current (land- and groundwater-use) conditions?

Summary Exposure Pathway Evaluation Table

Potential Human Receptors (Under Current Conditions)

"Contaminated" Media	Residents	Workers	Day-Care	Construction	Trespassers	Recreation	Food ³
Groundwater	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Air (indoors)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Soil (surface, e.g., < 2 ft)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Surface Water	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sediment	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Soil (subsurface e.g., > 2 ft)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Air (outdoors)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Instructions for Summary Exposure Pathway Evaluation Table:

1. Strike-out specific Media including Human Receptors spaces for Media which are not "contaminated" as identified in #2 above.
2. enter "yes" or "no" for potential "completeness" under each "Contaminated" Media -- Human Receptor combination (Pathway).

Note: In order to focus the evaluation to the most probable combinations some potential "Contaminated" Media - Human Receptor combinations (Pathways) do not have check spaces ("___"). While these combinations may not be probable in most situations they may be possible in some settings and should be added as necessary.

_____ If no (pathways are not complete for any contaminated media-receptor combination) -skip to #6, and enter "YE" status code, after explaining and/or referencing condition(s) in-place, whether natural or man-made, preventing a complete exposure pathway from each contaminated medium (e.g., use optional Pathway Evaluation Work Sheet to analyze major pathways).

_____ If yes (pathways are complete for any "Contaminated" Media - Human Receptor Combination) - continue after providing supporting explanation.

_____ If yes (pathways are complete for any "Contaminated" Media - Human Receptor Combination) - continue after providing supporting explanation.

_____ If unknown (for any "Contaminated" Media - Human Receptor combination) - skip to #6 and enter "IN" status code.

³ Indirect Pathway/Receptor (e.g., vegetables, fruits, crops, meat and dairy products, fish, shellfish, etc.)

Rationale and Reference(s): Not Applicable

Current Human Exposures Under Control

Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRIS code (CA725)

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4. Can the exposures from any of the complete pathways identified in #3 be reasonably expected to be "significant"⁴ (i.e., potentially "unacceptable" because exposures can be reasonably expected to be: 1) greater in magnitude (intensity, frequency and/or duration) than assumed in the derivation of the acceptable "levels" (used to identify the "contamination"); or 2) the combination of exposure magnitude (perhaps even though low) and contaminant concentrations (which may be substantially above the acceptable "levels") could result in greater than acceptable risks)?

_____ If no (exposures can not be reasonably expected to be significant (i.e., potentially "unacceptable") for any complete exposure pathway) - skip to #6 and enter "YE" status code after explaining and/or referencing documentation justifying why the exposures (from each of the complete pathways) to "contamination" (identified in #3) are not expected to be "significant."

_____ If yes (exposures could be reasonably expected to be "significant" (i.e., potentially "unacceptable") for any complete exposure pathway) - continue after providing a description (of each potentially "unacceptable" exposure pathway) and explaining and/or referencing documentation justifying why the exposures (from each of the remaining complete pathways) to "contamination" (identified in #3) are not expected to be "significant."

_____ If unknown (for any complete pathway) - skip to #6 and enter "IN" status code

Rationale and Reference(s): _____ Not Applicable

⁴ If there is any question on whether the identified exposures are "significant" (i.e., potentially "unacceptable") consult a human health Risk Assessment specialist with appropriate education, training and experience.

Current Human Exposures Under Control
Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRIS code (CA725)
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5. Can the "significant" exposures (identified in #4) be shown to be within acceptable limits?

If yes (all "significant" exposures have been shown to be within acceptable limits)
-continue and enter "YE" after summarizing and referencing documentation
justifying why all "significant" exposures to "contamination" are within acceptable
limits (e.g., a site-specific Human Health Risk Assessment).

If no (there are current exposures that can be reasonably expected to be
"unacceptable")-continue and enter "NO" status code after providing a description
of each potentially "unacceptable" exposure.

If unknown (for any potentially "unacceptable" exposure) - continue and enter
"IN" status code

Rationale and Reference(s): Not Applicable

Current Human Exposures Under Control
Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRIS code (CA725)
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6. Check the appropriate RCRIS status codes for the Current Human Exposures Under Control EI event code (CA725), and obtain Supervisor (or appropriate Manager) signature and date on the EI determination below (and attach appropriate supporting documentation as well as a map of the facility):

YE - Yes, "Current Human Exposures Under Control" has been verified. Based on a review of the information contained in this EI Determination, "Current Human Exposures" are expected to be "Under Control" at the _____ facility, EPA ID # _____, located at _____ under current and reasonably expected conditions. This determination will be re-evaluated when the Agency/State becomes aware of significant changes at the facility.

____ NO - "Current Human Exposures" are NOT "Under Control."

 X IN - More information is needed to make a determination.

Completed by (signature) _____ Date _____
(print) _____
(title) _____

Supervisor (signature) _____ Date _____
(print) _____
(title) _____
(EPA Region or State) _____

Locations where References may be found: _____

Contact telephone and e-mail numbers

(name) Ed Honig
(phone #) (402) 271-5979
(e-mail) ehhonig@notes.up.com

FINAL NOTE: THE HUMAN EXPOSURES EI IS A QUALITATIVE SCREENING OF EXPOSURES AND THE DETERMINATIONS WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD NOT BE USED AS THE SOLE BASIS FOR RESTRICTING THE SCOPE OF MORE DETAILED (E.G., SITE-SPECIFIC) ASSESSMENTS OF RISK.

DOCUMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR DETERMINATION

Interim Final 2 5 99

RCRA Corrective Action Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRIS code (CA750)

Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control

Facility Name: Houston Wood Preserving Works
Facility Address: 4910 Liberty Road, Houston, Texas
Facility EPA ID #: TXD0008202669

1. Has all available relevant/significant information on known and reasonably suspected releases to the groundwater media, subject to RCRA Corrective Action (e.g., from Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU), Regulated Units (RU), and Areas of Concern (AOC)), been considered in this EI determination?

 If yes - check here and continue with #2 below.
 If no - re-evaluate existing data, or
 X If data are not available skip to #8 and enter "IN" (more information needed) status code.

BACKGROUND

Definition of Environmental Indicators (for the RCRA Corrective Action)

Environmental Indicators (EI) are measures being used by the RCRA Corrective Action program to go beyond programmatic activity measures (e.g., reports received and approved, etc.) to track changes in the quality of the environment. The two EI developed to-date indicate the quality of the environment in relation to current human exposures to contamination and the migration of contaminated groundwater. An EI for non-human (ecological) receptors is intended to be developed in the future.

Definition of "Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control" EI

A positive "Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control" EI determination ("YE" status code) indicates that the migration of "contaminated" groundwater has stabilized, and that monitoring will be conducted to confirm that contaminated groundwater remains within the original "area of contaminated groundwater" (for all groundwater "contamination" subject to RCRA corrective action at or from the identified facility (i.e., site-wide)).

Relationship of EI to Final Remedies

While Final remedies remain the long-term objective of the RCRA Corrective Action program the EI are near-term objectives which are currently being used as Program measures for the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, GPRA). The "Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control" EI pertains ONLY to the physical migration (i.e., further spread) of contaminated ground water and contaminants within groundwater (e.g., non-aqueous phase liquids or NAPLs). Achieving this EI does not substitute for achieving other stabilization or final remedy requirements and expectations associated with sources of contamination and the need to restore, wherever practicable, contaminated groundwater to be suitable for its designated current and future uses.

Duration / Applicability of EI Determinations

EI Determinations status codes should remain in RCRIS national database ONLY as long as they remain true (i.e., RCRIS status codes must be changed when the regulatory authorities become aware of contrary information).

Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control

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_____ If yes - continue after identifying key contaminants, citing appropriate “levels,” and referencing supporting documentation.

_____ If no - skip to #8 and enter “YE” status code, after citing appropriate “levels,” and referencing supporting documentation to demonstrate that groundwater is not “contaminated.”

_____ If unknown - skip to #8 and enter “IN” status code.

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- _____ If yes - continue, after presenting or referencing the physical evidence (e.g., groundwater sampling/measurement/migration barrier data) and rationale why contaminated groundwater is expected to remain within the (horizontal or vertical) dimensions of the “existing area of groundwater contamination”²).
- _____ If no (contaminated groundwater is observed or expected to migrate beyond the designated locations defining the “existing area of groundwater contamination”²) – skip to #8 and enter “NO” status code, after providing an explanation.
- _____ If unknown - skip to #8 and enter “IN” status code.

Rationale and Reference(s): Not Applicable

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_____ If yes - continue after identifying potentially affected surface water bodies.
 _____ If no - skip to #7 (and enter a "YE" status code in #8, if #7 = yes) after
 providing an explanation and/or referencing documentation supporting that
 groundwater "contamination" does not enter surface water bodies.
 _____ If unknown - skip to #8 and enter "IN" status code.

Rationale and Reference(s): Not Applicable

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- Rationale and Reference(s): Not Applicable

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